

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph [0007] with the following amended paragraph:

[0007] One characteristic of nitinol that has not been greatly addressed is the cyclic fatigue life. In many devices, especially in medical applications, that undergo cyclic forces, fatigue life is an important consideration. There have been papers delivered on this topic such as W. Harrison, Z. Lin, "The Study of Nitinol Bending Fatigue," pp. 391-396; M. Reinoehl, et al., "The Influence of Melt Practice on Final Fatigue Properties of Superelastic NiTi Wires," pp. 397-403; C. Kugler, et al., "Non-Zero Mean Fatigue Test Protocol for NiTi," pp. 409-417; D. Tolomeo, et al., "Cyclic Properties of Superelastic Nitinol: Design Implications," pp. 461-471, all published by SMST-2000 Conference Proceedings, The International Organization Of Shape Memory And Superelastic Technology (2001). There is, however, still a need for developing a nitinol alloy that has improved fatigue life especially suitable for medical device applications.